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Remarks

Claims 12, 15 and 17-23 remain in this application. Claims 1-11 were already canceled. Claims 13-14 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice, having their subject-matter being incorporated into claim 12 with the amendments hereby submitted. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject-matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 12 was rejected in that the recitation "*the method consisting in producing in succession rows of knitting by way of the plurality of needles of the machine that is used*" was deemed confusing and unclear by the Examiner.

The Examiner also objected to the recitation "*performing openwork constituted by holes, each of which is provided by way of a group of needles in which a first needle, after taking part in a formation of a first row of knitting, is freed from a loop of said first row of knitting by transferring said loop to a second needle that is contiguous to said first needle, said first needle being actuated so as to resume knitting, and in forming a new loop of a second row of knitting that is subsequent to said first row*" as being generally narrative and unclear as to the specific steps being claimed.

In response to the Examiner's objection, claim 12 has been amended so as to recite a sequence of steps which are listed in respective paragraphs of the claim.

In particular, the new recitation "*actuating said plurality of needles for forming, in succession, rows of knitting*" is a positive formulation of the original feature "*producing, in succession, rows of knitting*".

Moreover, the step of forming a hole in the fabric has been divided into four steps: the first step consists in the transfer of a loop from a first needle to a second needle after the formation of a first row of knitting, the second step consists in the exclusion of the first needle from knitting while the second row of knitting is formed, the third step consists in transferring a second loop from the second needle to a third needle and the last step consists in resuming knitting and forming a third row by actuating the first and second needle too.

The claimed steps are supported by original claims 13-14 and 16 and by the

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original specification, from page 6, line 17 to page 7, line 4.

The Examiner objected to the expression "*that directly follows*" in previous claim 13.

It is noted that the original expression "*second row of knitting that directly follows said first row of knitting*", used in previous claim 13, has been replaced by "*second row of knitting adjacent to said first row of knitting*", as it is seen from amended claim 12. The term "*adjacent*" has the same meaning of "*that directly follows*", as it can be seen from the corresponding definition given in the Webster's Third New International Dictionary: "*immediately preceding or following with nothing of the same kind intervening*".

Finally, the Examiner objected to the term "*bridle*" used in claim 14. It is noted that the original term "*bridle*" has been replaced by the corresponding feature "*float loop*". This amendment is allowable for the following reasons.

In the specification, the term "*bridle*" corresponds to the loop indicated with 1b in figures 2 and 4-7. Such loop, as it immediately appears from figures 2 and 4-7 and as the person skilled in the art is well aware of, is also called "*float loop*". It is well known that float loops are obtained when the corresponding needle is excluded from knitting (as claimed in previous claim 14 and 16), i.e. it is not raised at a feeder and does not take new yarn from the feeder.

Herewith enclosed is an excerpt (pages 78-79) from the handbook "Knitting technology", second edition, by David J. Spencer (Pergamon Press), in which the float loop (black yarn) is clearly indicated and defined in accordance with the definition of how a bridle is formed, given in previous claims 14 and 16.

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims now particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicants regard as the invention, in compliance with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 12-14, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Apollonio (US 6170299). Instead, claims 16-20 were deemed allowable.

The Examiner's objection is mooted in view of the amendments to claim 12, which now comprises the features of previous claim 16. Claim 17 has been amended so as to correctly depend from amended claim 12.

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It is noted that Apollonio does not teach or suggest to exclude from knitting the needle from which the loop is transferred to the contiguous needle. In fact, no bridle or float loop is present in the stitch structures depicted in Apollonio.

It is also noted that Apollonio fails to disclose at least that, in a formation of a second row of knitting adjacent to a first row of knitting, excluding a first needle from knitting in order to form a float loop at the first needle and, after having formed the second row of knitting, transferring the loop that is formed by the second needle and belongs to the second row of knitting to a third needle that is contiguous to the second needle, so as to free the second needle as well as the first needle.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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